A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE ARCHIVING INITIATIVES PARTICULARLY ON THE EXPERIENCES ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the National Committee on Archives (NCA), under the Subcommission for Cultural Heritage (SCH), is one of the 19 national committees of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) which is committed to pursue and promote meaningful and relevant endeavors to preserve Filipino heritage and advance archives administration as a discipline and as a profession;

WHEREAS, to document and archive the experiences of the Filipino people in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCA initiated and crafted a committee project titled “Philippine Documentary Heritage Archival Collection on the COVID-19 Pandemic”;

WHEREAS, this project is NCA’s response to the call “to harness the educational, scientific and artistic potential of documentary heritage in efforts to address the COVID-19 outbreak” and “ensure that all official records related to the COVID-19 crisis are effectively preserved and readily available to the public” issued by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), co-signed with the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA), along with the Memory of the World (MoW) Regional Committees for Africa (ARCMOW), Asia Pacific (MOWCAP) and Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC) (UNESCO, 6 April 2020, para. 1-4);

WHEREAS, Fackson Banda, the chief of the Memory of the World Documentary Heritage Unit, highlights documentary heritage as a “unique knowledge asset” and pointed out that all the health crises faced globally in the past are all “a matter of record or documentation” that was passed down to generations as documentary heritage, a “key feature of any knowledge society” (UNESCO, 5 July 2020, para. 2, 9);

NOW THEREFORE, recognizing the value of documentary heritage at the behavioral, policy, and technological levels, and the gargantuan task of archiving our everyday experiences under this pandemic ahead of us to respond to these critical times for the benefit of the future generations;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the National Committee on Archives to support all documentary heritage archiving initiatives and parallel efforts, in the local and national scale, particularly on the experiences of the Filipino people on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted this 25th day of November 2020, Manila, Philippines.

Attested by:  
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Head, National Committee on Archives